

MEDIA STORAGE CONTAINER WITH LETTERS
SPLIT BETWEEN BASE AND LID WALLS

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application claims priority from United States provisional application serial number 60/419,053 filed October 15, 2002; the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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1. TECHNICAL FIELD

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The present invention generally relates to media storage containers. More particularly, the present invention relates to a media storage container having letters or word portions disposed on opposed walls that join together to form whole letters or words when the media storage container is closed. Specifically, the invention relates to a media storage container having a base and lid connected by a hinge with base and lid front walls disposed opposite the hinge. The base and lid front walls of the container include portions of the title of the item of recorded media within the container such that a complete title is viewable when the container is closed.

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2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Various media storage containers are known in the art. Most media storage containers include a base and a lid connected at a hinge. The hinge typically presents a hinge wall or a spine. The printed material that identifies the contents of the media storage container usually positions the title of the contents along this hinge wall or spine. Retailers and media owners must position this wall outwardly so that the identity of the media may be readily ascertained when the media is stored alongside other items of recorded media. The art desires a media marking method that provides a second wall that may be used to identify the contents of the storage container.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides one embodiment wherein a letter or a word is provided on the opposed front wall portions of the base and lid that are disposed opposite the spine. The words are split longitudinally so that they join to form a whole letter or a whole word when the container is closed. The letter or word may represent the title of the media disposed within the container.

In one embodiment, the invention provides printed letters on the base and lid. Another embodiment of the invention provides raised letters that are built into the base and lid.

In one embodiment, the invention provides a media storage container having a base and lid connected by a hinge with base and lid front walls disposed opposite the hinge. The base and lid front walls of the container include portions of the title of the item of recorded media within the container such that a complete title is viewable when the container is closed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a media storage container made in accordance with the concepts of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation view of the front wall portions of the media storage container of Fig. 1 with the front wall portions in a partially open configuration.

Fig. 3 is a front elevation view of the front wall portions in a closed configuration.

Fig. 4 is a section view taken along line 4-4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a second embodiment wherein words are formed on the front walls and sidewalls.

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of a third embodiment wherein the word portions are printed onto the front walls of the base and lid.

Fig. 7 is a front elevation view of Fig. 6 showing the base and lid in a partially open configuration.

Fig. 8 is a front elevation view of Fig. 6 showing the base and lid in a closed configuration.

Fig. 9 is a section view taken along line 9-9 of Fig. 8.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the invention wherein printed words are positioned on the front walls and sidewalls of the container.

Figs. 11-20 show the above-identified embodiments of the invention disposed on a different type of media storage container.

Similar numbers refer to similar parts throughout the specification.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The first embodiment of a media storage container made in accordance with the concepts of the present invention is indicated generally by the numeral 10 in Figs. 1-4. Container 10 generally includes a base 12 and a lid 14 that are connected together with a hinge 16. Hinge 16 may include a pair of living hinges 18 spaced apart by a hinge wall 20.

Base 12 and lid 14 move between open and closed configurations with the closed configuration depicted in Fig. 1. When in the closed configuration, base 12 and lid 14 cooperate together to define a storage compartment that is adapted to receive at least one item of recorded media. Base 12 or lid 14 may include suitable retaining devices such as hubs or walls adapted to receive and hold the item of recorded media.

Base 12 includes a front wall 22 and a pair of sidewalls 24. Lid 14 includes a front wall 26 and a pair of sidewalls 28. In the embodiment of the invention depicted in the drawings, the line of division 30 between base 12 and lid 14 is disposed at approximately half of the height of container 10. As such, the height of walls 22, 24, 26, and 28 are substantially equal.

Container 10 includes at least one letter or a word 40 presented on front walls 22 and 26 disposed opposite of hinge wall 20. Letter or word 40 is split between wall 22 and wall 26 such that a whole letter or word is formed when container 10 is closed and unformed when container 10 is open (see Fig. 2). Letter or word 40 may be the title of the item of recorded media stored within container 10.

In container 10, each letter 40 is raised with respect to front wall 22 and 26 (Fig. 4). Letter 40 may also be recessed with respect to front wall 22 and 26. As such, the upper surface 42 of each letter 40 is spaced from wall 22 and 26. Word 40 may be disposed horizontally as depicted in Fig. 3 or vertically (not shown) by turning each letter 40 ninety degrees. Placing letter of word 40 on front walls 22 and 26 in this manner allows storage container 10 to be identified when a person looks at either end of container 10.

The second embodiment 50 is depicted in Fig. 5 wherein a letter or a word 40 is also disposed on sidewalls 24 and 28. The third embodiment 52 is depicted in Figs. 6-9. Container 52 includes at least one letter or a word 54

disposed on walls 22 and 26. Letter 54 is printed directly onto the outer surface of walls 22 and 26.

A fourth embodiment 56 is depicted in Fig. 10 wherein letter or word 54 is disposed on sidewalls 24 and 28.

5 Figs. 11-20 show the above-identified embodiments of the invention disposed on a different type of media storage container.

10 In the foregoing description, certain terms have been used for brevity, clearness, and understanding. No unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom beyond the requirement of the prior art because such terms are used for descriptive purposes and are intended to be broadly construed.

Moreover, the description and illustration of the invention is an example and the invention is not limited to the exact details shown or described. For example, the containers depicted in the drawings are vacuum-formed containers. These are provided as an example. The invention may be applied to media storage containers that are fabricated through other methods known in the art.

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